Classroom at Crater Lake—Fall 2016

Program and Curriculum Options

Teachers work with Education Rangers to design a program best suited to the needs of their students and field time available in the park. Programs may be combined, for example, the Map & Compass activity pairs well with the Watchman Peak hike. Please consider the maturity and fitness level of your group when choosing program options.

Rim Village-Based Program Options

- Sinnott Overlook and Museum: geology and history of Crater Lake National Park
- Wildlife Watch: Using binoculars and field guides, students observe, identify and record birds, wildlife, and other features of the park environment.
- Hemlock Forest Discovery Hike: Exploring the old-growth forest gives students opportunity learn about adaptation of organisms to the harsh climate at 7,000 foot elevation.
- Fallen Log Investigation: Students explore the hemlock forest and collect data as they uncover the life supported within a rotten log.
- Art on the Rim: Students discover the role the arts have historically played at Crater Lake and create watercolor images while honing observation skills.
- The Pika Challenge: focusing on the seasonal habits of this high altitude dweller, students examine the challenges this creature faces with changing climate with an active game of survival.
- ID-A-Tree: Practicing their observation skills, students take a closer look at the trees around them and discover what characteristics help define each species.
- Map & Compass: Using topographic maps, students learn how to recognize landmarks around the Rim of Crater Lake and find them on the map. With a compass, they orient the map and learn how to find other visible features and learn how they formed.

Programs for Middle and High Schoolers

- Wildlife Citizen Science: Students learn about park wildlife- related research and the impacts of climate change on park ecosystems. Other park resource themes include botany and fire ecology, which can be incorporated into programs.
- GPS EarthCaching: Students explore the Rim Village area with GPS units and complete a “treasure hunt” to gain new knowledge about the park.

Hiking-based Programs

Students hike a park trail with a ranger and make stops along the way to discuss different features of the landscape and ecosystem.

- Watchman Peak Hike (moderate, 1.4 miles round trip, 400 feet elevation gain, allow one and a half hours). Topics include volcanic geology, whitebark pine forest ecosystem, special adaptations of organisms, watersheds, public land stewardship, and fire ecology.
    - ***Note: This hike can only be scheduled for groups with one or two classes, or less than 70 students total.***
- Garfield Peak Hike (3.4 miles round trip, 1,000 feet elevation gain, allow two and a half to three hours). This strenuous hike is best suited for groups who are ready to challenge themselves physically! The trail comes close to the caldera's edge in places, travels through pika habitat and whitebark pine forest, and affords views and a sense of accomplishment from the top!
    - ***Note: This hike can only be scheduled for groups with one class, or less than 35 students total.***
- Cleetwood Cove Hike ***THIS HIKE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE THIS SEASON*** (2.2 miles round trip, 700 feet elevation gain, allow two and half to three hours). Visiting the lakeshore gives students a unique view of the caldera, and an opportunity to see, touch, and test the water.

Crater Lake National Park topics include:

- The geologic framework and formation of Crater Lake
- Diversity, interactions, and adaptations of plants and animals
- Mountain Hemlock forest ecology
- Water quality and characteristics of the water in Crater Lake
- Snowpack and watersheds, connecting the park to rivers in Southern Oregon
- Cultural history of the park and region
- Park research, monitoring, and citizen science projects